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VIA: AIR

NR14-798

TO : Chief, SE

8 May 1953

FROM : []

INFO: []

SUBJECT: General - Intelligence/PSYCH/BOPIEND
Specific- Statements Made by RNCASTING on
Albanian Affairs

1. During [] conversation with RNCASTING on 15 and 16 April 1953, the latter made certain statements and comments of interest in connection with BOPIEND activities and Albanian affairs. The essence of these comments is outlined below.
2. According to RNCASTING, the current reports that certain emigre groups are trying to create a new Albanian committee outside both the National Committee for Free Albania and the Yugoslav-sponsored Pristina refugee organization are based on Ali KLISSURA's efforts to unite the groups hitherto excluded from the Rome committee. Both HAKRAGJONI, for the RNI, and Xhafer DEVA have informed RNCASTING that they would not participate in such a new organization. This attitude meets fully with RNCASTING's approval because he feels that another committee in addition to those already existing would lead to no good end and would only aggravate the rivalry and bickering so prevalent among the various refugee leaders and groups now. Ali KLISSURA is in Greece at the present time in order to seek Greek backing for the new committee envisioned by him. However, RNCASTING feels sure that KLISSURA will get nowhere, particularly since the RNI and DEVA do not desire to cooperate with him on this matter.
3. It is RNCASTING's view that there is enough experience to show that the creation of a new committee would be a mistake. He considers that it is much more effective to deal with the various leaders, groups, and factions separately.
4. In respect to [] query concerning the possible purpose of Xhafer DEVA's recent visit to Istanbul, RNCASTING said that the purpose of this visit is unknown to him, but that as a result of a certain amount of Italian backing, DEVA is able to engage in some political activity on his own behalf. Such activity is likely to be ineffectual and probably has no political significance in view of DEVA's relative lack of importance.
5. In discussing the National Committee for Free Albania in Rome, RNCASTING reiterated his regret and concern that it is so ineffective politically and so disunited because of inter-party rivalries. He said that Abas KUFI had returned

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to Rome but that it would not be surprising if relations between the legitimate and the RM were to continue to be unsatisfactory. He remarked that the recent incident in Australia, where Abas MEMENYI's brother attacked Abas MEMPI's son and was shot and wounded by the latter, would hardly help to ameliorate the situation.

6. RMCASTING brought up the question of Turkey's interest in Albania, which, he feels, has become more evident since the conclusion of the Turkish-Greek-Yugoslav agreement. As evidence of Turkey's feelings on the subject he cited the fact that the Turkish Ambassador in Cairo recently told the Royal Albanian Minister in the same city that Turkey had a very real interest in Albania and her independence, and would under no circumstances accept her partitioning between her neighbors. This statement was volunteered by the Turkish Ambassador.
7. In regard to RMCASTING's personal and family plans, the following was the situation at the time of [] interview:
 - a. RMCASTING's wife plans to visit the Pope in Rome during the month of May. This is a meeting that has been postponed for some time and should not be put off any longer. Following this, she expects to make a brief visit to the United States in order to initiate the work of preparing the estate for occupancy. Then she would like to return to Europe to complete preparations for the family move to the United States. Prior to the final move, which would be most convenient if it could take place in September, certain members of the family would like to visit Austria for medical reasons which were not specified but are apparently not serious.
 - b. RMCASTING himself has a number of matters which will preclude his departure for the United States before the expiration of some 3 or 4 months. He believes that this time will be required to settle his personal affairs.
 - c. In regard to the subject of U.S. visas [] 131 [] pointed out again that as a special favor, certain special visas were being made available for the use of the family provided prompt action were taken by the latter to complete the necessary formalities. It was emphasized again that the law which makes this special favor possible expires on 30 June 1953, and that unless the visas are applied for promptly and claimed prior to 30 June 1953, the opportunity would be lost. RMCASTING appeared to understand the situation and reassured [] that matters would be straightened out with the local American Consulate promptly, and that he would issue instructions immediately to have the necessary data supplied immediately, including an estimated time of departure. He appeared to accept [] suggestion that he arbitrarily select 15 June 1953 as the probable date on which the visa applicants would leave.

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- d. In regard to RECASTING's own visa, [] explained that a diplomatic one would be out of the question. RECASTING seemed to accept this without question, although he obviously considered a visa of this type most desirable. He said that since he would have to travel back and forth to Europe a great deal, he could really get along with a plain visitor's visa if it were the best that could be done.

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